

St. John Balenton 9:30 11/17/68

*Processional Hymn 14
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading - 73 R. 62
Hymn 20
Scripture 2 Cor. 10
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

Offering, Prayer
*Hymn 275
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 475
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen

Salem Lamartine 11:00 11/17/68

*Processional Hymn 198
*Call to Worship Pg. 8
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture 2 Cor. 10
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

FLOWERS FROM MR. & MRS. LAWRENCE
NEELY IN
MEMORY OF MR. & MRS. DYPON
NEELY.
DEC. 1ST.
REJOICINGS OF WED.

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 211
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 34
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor

Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

October 25, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude
*Hymn 8
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin - page 4, 1st. prayer
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Lesson:
II Corinthians 10
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (Front of Hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn 271
Sermon "On Being Commended By The Lord"
Text II Corinthians 10:18
Offering
*Doxology (Trinity Church)
*Offering Response (Christ Church)
*Prayer and Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 472
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

*Denotes Congregation Standing

Harvest Home and a Thank Offering Service will be observed in both churches in November. The dates will be announced later.

Confirmation Class will be held today from 5:30 to 6:30 P.M.

Tonight at 7:30 P.M. there will be a community service in the Trinity Lutheran Church, New Bloomfield. The brief worship service will be followed by a panel discussion with congregational involvement. Refreshments will be served after the service. It is hoped that our congregation will support this service. *MINISTERIAL TREASURY*

Mrs. Gertrude Wilson is in the Black Hospital in Lewistown recovering from a fall. She is in Room 8 and would be cheered by your visits or cards and well wishes.

The Junior Sunday School of Trinity Church is having a Halloween Party tonight from 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF will be observed in New Bloomfield Oct. 26 from 6:30 to 7:30 P.M. Junior High youth are asked to meet at St. Bernard's Church at 6:00 P.M. *REFRESHMENTS*
Get collection to CH. World Service NEW. WNDP
Trick or Treat for UNICEF will be observed on Wednesday Oct. 28 in Duncannon. Children taking part will meet at the United Church of Christ social room at 7:00 P.M. *HO.*

The new order of worship will begin next Sunday November 1. A copy of this new order may be seen on the bulletin boards.

Beginning with Sunday November 1st. the services will once again change. Trinity 9:00 A.M. & Christ 10:30 A.M.

Being Commended By The Lord.

Text: 2 Corinthians 10:18

Our Scripture this morning is another portion of the letter to the Corinthians written by the apostle Paul. This man more than any other spelled out in infinite detail, what being a Christian is. He became provoked at times and let fly with all he had at his opponents. This is one of those occasions in which he is explaining his thinking in detail. Let us examine what it is he is saying.

First Paul takes these people to task because they seemed to think and feel that Christ belonged to them and to them alone. In my reading about these Corinthian letters I read of an illustration concerning this verse. In East Africa there ^{was} ~~has been~~ a recent revival in the Churches. One of the features of this revival has been a public confession of sin. Probably much similar to what we use at the beginning of our worship. The natives have willingly taken part in this. However the Europeans have had the tendency to stand aloof from it. One of the missionaries wrote, "It is felt that to hold back from it is to refuse to be identified with the fellowship of forgiven sinners. Europeans are often accused of being proud and unwilling to share fellowship in this way." ^{WE HAVE THIS PROBLEM} ~~Now here is a more~~ ^{TODAY} ~~recent example of~~ ^{WHICH} ~~what~~ Paul wrote many years ago. People who seem to think or feel that Christ belongs to them and not to others. ^{PEOPLE WHO FEEL} That confession of sin is good for everyone else but not for them because they do not need confession. So you see this is not a new problem at all. ~~It is a problem that we face today as Paul faced it in ancient times~~ ^{Paul faced it in ancient times} ~~well as ancient times.~~ It is a problem that should constantly require each of us to be on our guard lest we too feel that Christ is ours and He does not belong to our next door neighbor, or to someone who does not go to the same church as us. Let us each examine our hearts and try to keep these selfish ideas and thoughts out of our lives as well as out of our churches.

Then Paul had to face an accusation about his appearance. The Corinthians must have been taunting Paul about his preaching as well as his personal looks. They said that when he is with them he is seen as half a man and no preacher at all. A description of Paul's personal appearance has been handed down from a book entitled, "The Acts of Paul and Thecla." This book dates back to about 200 A.D.

It describes Paul as, "A man of little stature, thin haired upon the head, crooked in the legs, of good state of body, with eyebrows meeting, and with nose somewhat crooked, full of grace, for sometimes he appeared like a man, and sometimes he had the face of an angel." This is the description of Paul. A little bowlegged, hooked nosed, shaggy eyebrowed man. This isn't a very impressive picture of the great Apostle. Yet what difference does it make what a man or for that matter a woman, what difference does it make how they look? No one can help with what they have been given in the way of looks, ^{OR APPEARANCE} ^{TODAY WE LOOK TO HAPPINESS ETC.} One of the cruelest things I have always felt, was to make fun of someone because of their looks or their appearance. A man by the name of William Wilberforce is probably the equivalent to our Abraham Lincoln, since he was responsible for the freeing of the ~~slaves~~ in the British empire. But he was a small and frail man. A man heard him speak once in public and this is what he said. "I saw what seemed to me a shrimp mount upon the table, but as I listened, he grew and grew until the shrimp became a whale." We can never judge a person by looks or appearance.

Then Paul is accused of having the nerve to write something, but not having the nerve to say the same thing in the presence of these people. But Paul answers that the same man who wrote the letter is the same man who has the nerve to say the very same thing to their faces. It is an easy thing to do, to sit down and write something nasty to someone. But then it is not as easy to say the ^{same} thing to the person face to face. It is such an easy thing to write like this that we have laws which protect us from nasty letters. The law against libel. In other words if we feel like writing a nasty letter to someone, we better make sure we do not get too carried away or we could find ourselves involved in a court case. But Paul let these people know that such was not his case. He let them know that he was not afraid to talk as plainly to them in person as he did in a letter.

^{THEN} And ~~lastly~~ Paul is accused in this section of Scripture, of being boastful. Of using some big talk as we would say. Two negroes were talking out a professor of a certain negro college. The one remarked to the other, "That Professor Briggs sure uses some big high sounding words don't he?" The other one said, "Yea but ^{HE IS} ~~it's~~ just putting on airs like some folks like to do." "I don't figure it that way, the other one replied, "I kinda think that he uses them

big words, cause he's afraid that if people knew what he was talking about, they'd know he didn't know what he was talking about." But Paul was not guilty of this ^{TALKING BIG} ~~accusation~~ accusation. He told them that he was not ~~boasting~~ about things he hadn't done, but of the things for which they could see visible proof. He told them if anyone wants to boast let him boast of the Lord. The final sentence gives the clue as to what Paul thinks of self praise. He says, "It is not the man who commends himself that can be accepted, but the man who is commended by the Lord." St. Clement said, "God hates those who praise themselves." In Proverbs we read, "Let the other man praise you, but not your own mouth. A stranger, but not your lips." No one really likes to hear someone spouting off about what they have done and what they can do all the time. But Paul has the answer that can stop anyone. "It is not the man who commends himself who is accepted, but the man who is commended by the Lord." Now you may wonder how this can be the answer and how I have arrived at this decision. If we think about it we begin to realize that the Lord doesn't give out too many commendations. At least we do not know of Him being in contact with us and patting us on the back for what we have done. So the answer is pretty obvious that we should keep living our lives with out the added burden of boasting of ourselves, and we will have to wait for the world to come to receive our praise from God. No amount of bragging or boasting will give us the promised crown of glory. It will be determined by what we actually do in the service of our Lord.

Now once again we may ask, what does this particular letter by Paul say to our generation, or our society? And the answer is very obvious. Paul wrote as though he were talking personally to you and I. Don't you and I act very many times like we were the sole possessors of Christianity? Aren't we concerned and perhaps too much about our appearance, or the appearance we will make on other people? Don't we many times say something behind someone's back and never have the nerve to say it to their face? And don't we like to hear ourselves praised? Can't we like to read about ourselves or hear others speak about us? Maybe, we can be here this morning and again pass the pitchfork back or to the side of us because these things are not in our lives and Don't concern us. I think if we are

truthful we will find that at least one of these things fits us to a tee, and not just our friends or neighbors. And if we are really truthful we can probably find that almost all of these things fit us. But there is hope for us. We can still have the forgiveness of God. All is not lost. But time must not be lost in our coming to Him. Each time we delay in asking for His forgiveness we may become a little more self satisfied., or boastful, or appearance conscious. We can overcome all of these faults or flaws or whatever you care to call them. Life is not such that we must carry these things through it if we do not care to. But again we must be ready to throw them off. And we can only do it with God's help. For we are human, and being made this way we can overcome an obstacle, only to have another pop up in it's place. This becomes discouraging to anyone. But if we have God at our side, helping us each day, why we can overcome anything. For He gives us the strength. He gives us the ability to go on, when life seems to be the darkest. The challenge is facing us today. Will we accept it and try to reshape our lives in the ways of God? Or will we be content to let ourselves be the same type of people the Corinthians were? Each of us can determine for ourselves alone what we can and will do with our lives. ^{ONCE AGAIN} The choice is ours.